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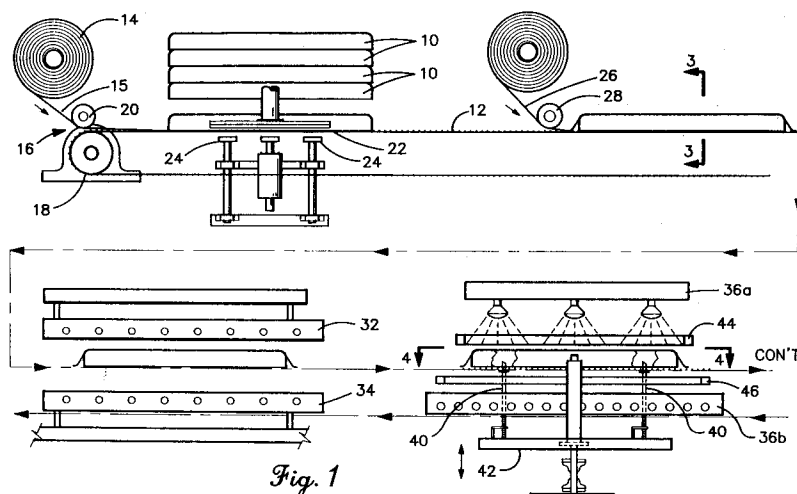
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AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
02.01.92 Bulletin 92/01(71) Applicant: **MANVILLE CORPORATION**
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Denver, CO 80217-5108(US)(72) Inventor: **Hale, Steven Edward**
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W-8130 Starnberg(DE)(54) **Apparatus and method for encapsulating contoured articles.**

(57) A method and apparatus for encapsulating a porous article (10) in plastic film without employing supporting molds. The article is deposited onto a lower web (15) and an upper web (26) is moved into overlying position. The edges of the webs are gripped by moving teeth (18) to move the webs and the article in unison. The webs are then pinched

together adjacent the article to form an enclosed volume. The film is heated to its fusing temperature and the enclosed volume is evacuated through a tube (40) inserted through the lower web (15) and into the article (10). The tube is removed and the fused webs are trimmed adjacent the edges of the article, resulting in an encapsulated article (10a).

**EP 0 422 542 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 11 9229

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-4 044 524 (L. SEGAL ET AL.) * column 2, line 26 - line 66; figures 1-5 *** column 3, line 3 - line 19; figures 3,4 *** column 3, line 65 - column 4, line 17; figures 10,11 ** - - -	1-30	B 29 C 63/02 B 29 C 51/16 B 29 C 65/02
X	FR-A-9 708 35 (WINGFOOT CO.) * page 1, right column, line 15 - line 25; figures 1,2 *** page 2, left column, line 3 - line 18; figures 1-3 ** - - -	1,21	
A	US-A-4 880 680 (D. R. KISTNER) * column 2, line 66 - column 3, line 42; figures 2-5,7-10 ** - - -	1-9,21-24	
A	FR-A-2 540 460 (GRACE SARL.) * page 6, line 6 - line 10; figure 1 ** - - -	1,21	
A	FR-A-2 004 752 (UDDEHOLMS AKTIEBOLAG) * page 4, line 18 - line 32; figures 2,3 ** - - -	3,4,11,12	
A	EP-A-0 339 275 (SOMAR CO.) * column 6, line 31 - column 7, line 22; figure 6 *** column 9, line 15 - line 54; figures 8A-9 ** - - -	1	
A	WO-A-8 200 623 (A. STUMSNER) * page 3, line 7 - line 20; figure 1 *** page 4, line 4 - line 15; figure 1 ** - - - - -	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 29 C B 65 B
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		28 October 91	TOPALIDIS A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X: particularly relevant if taken alone		E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	
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P: intermediate document			
T: theory or principle underlying the invention			